

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

NICHOLAS A. PILLOWS

Plaintiff,

v.

TDOC,  
MICHAEL KEYS,  
G. FIRESTONE, and  
R.M.S.I.,

Defendants.

No.: 1:21-CV-48-TAV-SKL

**MEMORANDUM OPINION**

Plaintiff, a prisoner of the Tennessee Department of Correction incarcerated in the Riverbend Maximum Security Institution (“RMSI”), has filed a pro se complaint for violation of 42 U.S.C. § 1983 [Doc. 2] and a motion for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* [Doc. 1].

Plaintiff’s complaint arises out of various incidents during his incarceration in RMSI [Doc. 2]. The general venue statute for federal district courts provides in relevant part as follows:

A civil action may be brought in—

(1) a judicial district in which any defendant resides, if all defendants are residents of the State in which the district is located;

(2) a judicial district in which a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred, or a substantial part of property that is the subject of the action is situated; or

(3) if there is no district in which an action may otherwise be brought as provided in this section, any judicial district in which any defendant is subject to the court's personal jurisdiction with respect to such action.

28 U.S.C.A. § 1391(b)(1)-(3). RMSI is in Davidson County, Tennessee, which lies within the Nashville Division of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee. 28 U.S.C. § 123(b)(1); <https://www.tnmd.uscourts.gov/divisions-court>. The Court therefore concludes that the proper venue for this case is the Nashville Division of the Middle District of Tennessee. *See O'Neill v. Battisti*, 472 F.2d 789, 791 (6th Cir. 1972) (finding that venue in a suit against a public official lies in the district where he performs his official duties). A federal district court may transfer a civil action to any district or division where it could have been filed originally "in the interest of justice." 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a).

Accordingly, the Clerk will be **DIRECTED** to transfer this action to the Nashville Division of the Middle District of Tennessee and to close this Court's file.

**AN APPROPRIATE JUDGMENT ORDER WILL ENTER.**

s/ Thomas A. Varlan  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE